THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

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A few short moons ago and Hiram Johnson was not considered a fit man to be discussed in polite Republican society in this part of the United States, and now he looms large in the Presidential campaign. There is a desperate effort to defeat him by taking away the delegation from his own State of California, by running the well known Hoover against him. Hoover is the mystery man of American politics. He is the Samara candidate, that is he has two wings and cannot float without both. To explain, the seed of the maple is a samara and the two wings are given to it so that it can travel. There does not seem to be much to the Hoover platform other than he claims to be on the side of the angels. The chances are that Mr. Hoover is just about strong enough to lose in California, and then the Johnson menace will become greater.

In 1892, a great effort was made to defeat Grover Cleveland by getting the State of New York to go against him, the enemies arguing that if that delegation opposed him he would not be nominated, but in spite of the attack made upon him he was nominated and elected. It was during that campaign that a Wisconsin man coined the phrase that has been so convenient since that they loved him for the enemies that he had made. Seneca said it first, however.

Whereever primaries are held, either east or west, the people go out of their way to vote for Johnson. The safe conservative Republican leaders complain that the elements of unrest are uniting on him to ruin the country. It has been pointed out that these dangerous elements are those who have been recruited by the Republican party for the purpose of rolling up a majority for some safe and sane man, and that if the fire has gotten a little out of hand, the Republican leaders are responsible for the conflagration.

The truth of it may be that the West not lacking in intelligence knows that it holds the balance of power and does not propose to be docile and accommodating.

The Democratic party has had a man like Johnson for many years in Mr. Bryan, the main difference being that Bryan is unlucky and Johnson is lucky. Bryan has never been elected to any office of power since he became known, and Johnson has been Governor and Senator, and has known what it is to exercise power and authority. Bryan could always divide his party, and Johnson is going to do that very thing this year unless a multitude of eminent gentlemen eat crow. Johnson is as full of fire and enthusiasm as Roosevelt, while Gen. Wood, who claims to be the legitimate heir, is nothing but pale moonshine.

Johnson was opposed to the league of nations and said so on every occasion and voted against the peace treaty, but that does not hurt him with the people. They seem to care as little for his views on international problems as they do for his views on baptism.

About the time that Johnson gets through with the primary in California, whether he wins or loses, there is going to be so many millionaires against him in his home state that it will just about force the nomination on him, and if he does get turned down at Chicago, get ready to get upon the Democratic band-wagon, for there will be one to get on.

When Johnson came out for Senator, he was with a group of friends in a big hotel in San Francisco. He told them that Crocker and de Young and the millionaire banking crowd, had said that he was financially incapable of making a campaign for United States senator. He reminded them that his period of office as governor had been one of loss to him, and that he had looked forward to returning to the practice of law, but after consulting with friends he had decided to make the campaign, and he asserted, that if he did not have the money of Mr. Crocker, Mr. de Young, and the millionaire crowd, he had something that they did not have, namely the confidence and respect of the great mass of the people of California.

It was no vain boast. He walked away with the nomination by some one hundred and eighty thousand majority, and in the general election while Wilson carried the state by 3773, Johnson carried it by a majority of 296,815, and that after he had watched the clothes of those who stoned Hughes out of California. Surely there is no royal road to the favor of the people, and he who would save his political life shall lose it.

Some of the wisest men assured the country that Johnson would not be seriously considered in this campaign for President, and look at the derned thing now.

It turned out to be a pretty fair sugar year after all, and a lot of sugar was turned into the market at the popular price of fifty cents a pound. In the old days the prevailing price was ten cents a pound, and then the market got a little dull and it dropped to eight cents, but that discouraged the producers. The only other time that tree sugar brought fifty cents a pound was in the sixties and then they paid for it in Confederate money.

Anybody who ever made sugar knows that in lean years or fat years with money down or up it is well worth fifty cents a pound to make sugar. Anybody who ever cut wood and boiled sap can testify that it is too much like recovering a fraction of a grain of radium from a ton of rock, to appeal to the manufacturer. The sugar camp is wet, cold, and disagreeable. There is mud on the ground, or ice or snow. Many a person has contracted a major case of pneumonia. A bushel of sap to a pound of sugar, and it is a long, long time evaporating. About the time that your patience runs out and you think at least you have got a biling down to the molasses stage it turns out that it is thin as vinegar, and it has to be fired, boiled, skimmed and watched for another day or two.

A good big tree will produce from two to six pounds in a season, and a pint of molasses is considered to be equivalent to a pound of sugar. At fifty cents a pound the whole crop found a market. There are three side issues in this county which have become money producers: Ginseng, fur and maple sugar, and they are so spaced through the year that one season does not interfere with another. There is little doubt that some trappers made enough last year to get into the class of income tax payers.

Of late years the sugar makers have been buying metal buckets, metal spiles, and evaporators and they make a more palatable product, but some think that it lacks the strength of the old fashioned maple sugar.

The old days would have scorned these innovations. The sap was caught in sugar troughs hollowed out of some soft wood. An extra good sugar trough made an excellent cradle and many a sugar lump angel child has been rocked in a sugar trough by loving mothers. The sugar kettle was the only article of commerce that entered into the sugar manufacture in them days, and these articles were considered of such importance that they took a place in the will and the rifle gun and the sugar kittles were disposed of in as solemn a manner as the farm itself. Look at the old wills and see how generally the sugar kittles are mentioned.

The maple sugar business properly belongs to the north, and there is not much sugar made as far south as we are, but the altitude of these mountains overcomes the latitude to such an extent that it is tolerably certain that there will be a few days at the least every year for making sugar. The tree is very sensitive, so much so that a flow may be secured from one side of a tree and nothing from the other.

The Indians were making tree sugar when this country was discovered by the white people, and it is purely an Indian invention. In February, in the Indian towns, the provisions had always run low. Then the squaws got ready to make sugar. They could pick certain elm trees from which the bark would slip, and with an ingenious spud made of a crooked stick, they took off sections of bark from which they made buckets holding about two gallons each. They then would notch the sugar trees, the notch sloping down, and at the bottom they stuck a tomahawk. In the hole thus made they placed a chip which carried the sap away from the tree so that it could be collected in the bucket. They made larger buckets to carry the sap and they made vats holding as much as one hundred gallons to hold the supply of sap so that the boiling would be continuous. They had iron kettles, though they probably used pottery before the days of the white trader. When the sugar water froze the Indians would use the freezing to advance the sugar making. They would let the sap freeze and throw away the ice, as there was no sugar in the ice, and this saved just that much evaporation.

When the sugar was made it was put in bear grease and a mess of half and half was made. Into this they dipped the dry venison that formed the bulk of their fare at that time of year. Under the Indian laws of hospitality it was considered the thing to do to have some of the mixture on hands at all times to set out when there was company.

Sugar making is the supreme test of cleanliness, and all sugar makers try for a reputation of making it clean though they have to contend with dust, ashes, soot, sparks and the like. The unclean habits of the Indians would make their sugar unsalable. Some of the older men remember a tribe that camped on the upper Greenbrier on their way to Washington to visit the Great White Father. These Indians bought chickens and without plucking or drawing them, boiled them all in one pot and eat them.

Last summer James Hamilton and wife came into this neck of the woods and settled down in the wilderness near the mouth of Thorney Creek and there they proceeded to sang the season out and to get ready for trapping in the winter. They did not make very much money but they did not need very much. Along in the fall some officers found that they had an apparatus that looked like it might make distilled damnation in expert hands and they grabbed the Hamilton and put him in jail on a charge of moonshining. This has got to be a regular word, and it is used in the statute and it means to make liquor. Hamilton stayed in jail all winter and his wife lingered near working at odd jobs. The couple were pretty popular as they seemed quiet, inoffensive sort of people. The grandjury came along and indicted Hamilton and the prosecuting attorney out of extra caution got a copy of an indictment from the tax commissioner's office at Charleston, and used that to accuse the defendant, and right there is where the prisoner had a stroke of luck, for if the prosecuting attorney had drawn the indictment himself, there would have been no hunting, fishing, sanging, or trapping for Hamiltan at the place he was so surely headed for.

At the big court in April, came the State, came the defendant, came the faithful wife, came the jury, and a trial was had, and the jury looked at the crude still and wondered if the law called that thing a still, if it was safe to own a cullender. The prosecution as usual insisted that a man intends to do what he does, and that the defense in this case was that it was impossible to do what he intended, and after a time the jury came in and said that the defendant was guilty and the verdict carried with it a term of years in the penitentiary.

Along towards the last of the term and before sentence was pronounced, the court and lawyers got to checking up to see if all the nice distinctions of the law for the protection of persons about to be deprived of their lives or liberty had been complied with, and it was suddenly discovered that there was a flaw in the indictment so important that it was impossible to hold the man. Where there should have beeen a "and," there was a "or," and when you read it carefully it was plain to be seen that the indictment was fatally defective. In vain in the sight of the defendant's attorneys, was the original form from Kanawha displayed. James O. Hamilton might be suspected of moonshining, but it was sure and certain that the state itself had used the disjunctive, when it should have used the conjunctive, and the indictment thereby rendered void and null and no more than a scrap of paper. It said in effect that the prisoner at the bar had owned, operated, or had in his possession a moonshine still. To have been good it would have to have said "own operate, and have in possession," for it is not allowed to say that the prisoner did one thing or another, for then no man might escape condemnation. You must say that he did one certain thing, and a number of other things, may be, but there must be no uncertainty about it. You must specify which. And that is the law, and if it is a bad law change it.

So the court was obliged to turn him loose, and Hamilton walked out of the court-house and gathered up his wife and they went out into the woods and camped out though it was still cold as winter time.

The lay of the Imprisoned Huntsman came to mind:

"I hate to learn of the ebb of time,
From yon dull steeple's drowsy chime,
Or mark it as the sunbeams crawl,
Inch after inch, along the wall.
The lark was wont my matins ring,
The sable rook my vespers sing;
These towers, although a king's
they be,
Have not a hall of joy for me."

It is not likely that James O. Hamilton could say those feeling words off hand, any more than he could tell why he had a right to be charged in the conjunctive instead of the disjunctive. About all he knows about it is that he and the morning stars can all sang together.

The Literary Digest is carrying on another of its famous polls. According to its last poll Charles E. Hughes is the president of the United States. The poll as published in last week's issue of that famous periodical which finds it so painful to be neutral in politics, shows some things that it's editor does not enlarge upon. One is that Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia are overwhelmingly Republican, and that Texas is very close politically. It is pretty certain that if the Literary Digest keeps on predicting that a Republican will be elected pesident, that it will eventually hit it.

Do not forget to vote for Uncle Henry Gilmer for the San Francisco convention. None but Americans on guard that week.

Not much said about the candidacy of Senator Sutherland for president in the Republican papers. As we have about as many Republican readers as any other kind, we take the liberty of reminding them that West Virginians need not look farther than West Virginia for an acceptable candidate in either of the great partise

We do not know much about the clothing market as we are one of these old clothes men, but so far as we can see women's skirts are not coming down any.

Let us all march to the tune of the Beautiful Blue Overall.

And he resolved with grim looks and stern determination to wear patches on his pants.

Auction Sale

On Monday May 3rd, 1920, beginning at 10 o'clock, I will sell at my place two miles above Durbin, the following:

1 young team.
2 good milk cows with calves at side.
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A lot of other things too numerous to mention

Terms: All sums of $10 and under cash. Over that amount five months time with interest and good security.

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3 acre lot, house, barn cellar and other outbuilding, plenty of water, 40 young fruit trees, consisting of apples, peaches, cherries and plums, also some grape vines and everbearing strawberries. Located near Huntersville. Price right if sold at once. Call on or write,

O P. McNeil, Huntersville, W. Va.

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G. L. NOTTINGHAM, Box 6
Nottingham, W. Va.

Notice

As I am preparing to move away from Pocahontas County, all persons having accounts against me will please send them to me at Dunmore, West Virginia.

P. L. WILLIAMS.

Administratrix Notice

Notice is hereby given to all parties having claims against the estate of the late D. L. Kerr to present the same proven according to law to the undersigned administratrix at her home at Bartow, W. Va. All persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate will please prepare to settle at once.

This 16th day of April, 1920.

MRS. D. L. KERR.
Admrx. of D. L. Kerr, deceased.

FOR SALE: One 8 A. P. steam tractor engine, Aultman-Taylor friction clutch, will sell cheap or trade for 12 H. P. portable oil engine or oil tractor, price on application. O. E. Gum, Huntersville, W. Va.

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50c. size 2 cakes for chicken house, coops, or small buildings.

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